

Indonesia

Sumatran Tigers



F&F CAMERA TRAP IMAGE OF A SUMATRAN TIGER

OVERVIEW

The Sumatran tiger is the smallest subspecies of tiger native to the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Habitat loss and poaching are the biggest threats to this subspecies. The expansion of oil palm plantations has significantly reduced tiger habitat, while deforestation has also decreased prey availability. Poaching continues even in protected areas, driven by international demand for tiger parts, which are used in traditional practices and as status symbols in some cultures.

PROJECTS

Fauna & Flora (F&F)

Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP), Indonesia's second-largest protected area, spans 1.386 million hectares and holds 128 individual tigers, the largest wild population of Sumatran tigers in the world.

Since 2000, WildCats has supported Fauna & Flora (F&F) and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, to combat habitat loss, prey depletion, poaching, and human-tiger conflict in KSNP.

The project investigates poaching and supports law enforcement through Tiger Protection Units who patrol using SMART monitoring to address threats. The project also works with communities to mitigate human-tiger conflicts to protect both tigers and local livelihoods.

Lingkar Inisiatif

Since 2017, WildCats has partnered with Lingkar Inisiatif in Kerinci Seblat National Park.

Using Islamic law, which prohibits hunting endangered species, the programme has reduced illegal hunting through a religious approach, leading hunters to renounce activities and surrender equipment.

Community outreach and the Guardianship Programme support ex-hunters with alternative livelihoods, while SMART patrols and collaboration with local leaders strengthen tiger protection. These efforts have significantly reduced hunting and fostered coexistence with local communities.

KEY FACTS

Population: <600

Breeding program*: Yes

Remaining distribution: Sumatra

IUCN Red List Status:



*A zoo breeding programme creates a pool of genetically healthy animals, ensuring a safe backup population that could be used to help restock the wild in case of an extinction event.

